

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LAUREN MINTO

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee will soon bid farewell to our Congressional Fellow, Lauren Minto, who has been with the Subcommittee for over a year. Before her detail with the Committee, Ms. Minto served the United States Army Corps of Engineers as Legal Clerk and Assistant District Counsel at the Corps' Louisville Office of Counsel for over six years. There, she supported the implementation and regulation of Corps projects funded through the appropriations process. Reviewing legislative language, responding to Congressional requests, and evaluating policy compliance, Ms. Minto developed a strong understanding of the relationship between Congressional legislation and on-site execution as well as a unique level of legal expertise required to facilitate the process.

It is no surprise, therefore, that Ms. Minto quickly became an invaluable member of the Committee staff when she joined the team in February 2008. Her in-depth knowledge of the legal implications of bill language and policy compliance, as well as her technical experience with the Corps' civil works projects, made her an indispensable addition to the staff. A remarkably fast learner and tireless worker, Ms. Minto quickly mastered the responsibilities assigned to her. Her refined analytical skills and exceptional attention to detail have been critical to our success in reviewing requests, synthesizing disparate information, and, ultimately, producing the bills and reports for the fiscal year 2009 and American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

Perhaps her most noteworthy contribution, however, has been to the development of the Energy and Water Subcommittee's Member Request Database. A relatively new system, the database is meant to facilitate the review and processing of requests made to the Subcommittee. Ms. Minto had the unfortunate experience of being one of the first to deal with the system. In her typically tireless way, she not only overcame any of the unforeseen obstacles, but took an active role in updating and reforming the database. Working closely with our IT department, Ms. Minto made targeted suggestions to perfect the system and, because of her work, our jobs, and those of future staff members will be easier. Indeed, Members' offices have expressed their appreciation for the standardized system of authorized projects that are now generated automatically. Ms. Minto's efforts have led to more reliable, accurate requests and more transparency. This has enabled Members to focus more on the policy behind the earmarks and less on the technical aspects of entering requests.

For these innovations, and for her overall diligence, ingenuity, and consistently positive

attitude over the past year, all of us at the Energy and Water Subcommittee would like to thank her. She will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors, and are confident that she will go on to do great things.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. HENRY
DAVID PRENSKY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Dr. David Prenskey—a profoundly respected and admired activist, lecturer and classical music enthusiast.

Dr. Prenskey was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1917, to a mother who encouraged him to study piano and from whom he inherited his love of classical music. Dr. Prenskey attended dental school and served as a ship's dentist for the U.S. Navy during World War II. Following his service in the Navy, he found a way to integrate his profession and his love of classical music through his dental practices in Miami, Florida and Mexico City, Mexico by playing classical music to relax his patients. In 1954, he married fellow art enthusiast Bryna Prenskey, who opened her own art gallery featuring Contemporary Mexican Art.

Dr. Prenskey dedicated his time to supporting local art programs, education and was an active member in the local Democratic Party. He shared his love of classical music with audiences around Palm Beach, Florida as a lecturer for the Society of the Four Arts and Regional Arts, the Etta Res Institute of New Dimensions at Palm Beach Community College, as well as for the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra. He was integral in the advancement of the Alexander W. Dreyfoos Jr. School of the Arts in West Palm Beach and dedicated his time to developing the schools' art and music libraries, scholarships and foundation. In honor of his commitment to the school, the orchestra rehearsal hall bears his name. In addition to Dr. Prenskey's dedication to the advancement of the arts, he was an avid activist for universal health care and founded Floridians for Health Care. Additionally, he co-founded the local Palm Beach Democratic Club. Although it has been almost a year since his passing, Dr. Prenskey's ability to mobilize the community and advocate for the social welfare of others continues to be evident to all those who have been touched by his efforts.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Dr. Henry David Prenskey and in honor of his outstanding achievements in the advancement of arts education and health care.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOL-
UNTEERISM AND EDUCATION
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Mr. HARE. Mr. Chair, President Obama has set high goals for this nation to improve public education, combat climate change, extend quality affordable health care to all Americans, and honor our veterans. I believe renewing our nation's commitment to service will be the vehicle through which we meet these challenges.

Under the leadership of Chairman MILLER and Subcommittee Chair, Congresswoman MCCARTHY, the GIVE Act (H.R. 1388) answers the President's call to service, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. Chair, very important to me as a veteran of the Army Reserves and the veterans' community is a provision I worked to secure in the GIVE Act that establishes a Veterans' Corps.

Last Congress when we considered legislation similar to H. R. 1388, I offered an amendment to create a grant program to enhance service opportunities for veterans and military families. The GIVE Act builds upon this effort by establishing a separate Veterans' Corps.

As more and more troops return from Iraq and Afghanistan, fulfilling our promise to them will be an even greater challenge and priority for our nation. Through the Veterans' Corps we can recruit and mobilize veterans into service projects that provide educational and economic opportunities, job training, mentoring and outreach to other veterans.

Mr. Chair, our nation's veterans have already demonstrated a profound commitment to service. The Veterans' Corps aims to harness that spirit and in the process give back to those who have sacrificed so much for us.

I would like to acknowledge the work of my friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN SARBANES of Maryland. Together, we introduced H.R. 1401, the VET Corps Act, which was the foundation for the Veterans' Corps in the GIVE Act.

I ask my colleagues to vote yes on the GIVE Act.

HONORING GLORIA MENDOZA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Gloria Mendoza has dedicated her life to education, starting as a kindergarten teacher and advancing

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

to administrator, all the time an advocate for students and staff. She has had a consistent commitment to quality education for all students, in the process becoming a role model for students.

She worked in New York City public schools for ten years as a teacher and administrator and in 1987 started her career with the Yonkers Public Schools as an Assistant Principal at Enrico Fermi School for the Performing Arts.

In 1991, she was appointed Principal of School 17, and served as Principal of Museum Middle School prior to her current assignment as Principal of Enrico Fermi School for the Performing Arts.

She has built partnerships with community organizations to create initiatives for her schools, including the Groundworks Gardening Project, the Parents-as-Partners Family Resource Center, the Healthy Eating Program, sponsored by St. John's Hospital and the Gorton High School Medical Magnet, the Westchester County Grandparent Volunteer Program, Yonkers Police Department's DARE Program, and St. Joseph's Hospital Yonkers Spectrum Clinic.

She has demonstrated that civic involvement and community service are important to her students' success and has encouraged staff, parents and students to reach out to the sick and the elderly, as well as to members of the United States Military in Iraq.

One of her passions, the Yonkers Pathways to Success, is a program to help adults learn to speak English and earn their high school diploma.

For her dedication to education she is being honored by the Yonkers YWCA with its Pacesetter Award, and I congratulate her and thank her for her great work in educating our children.

A TRIBUTE TO LEGAL ACTION OF WISCONSIN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Legal Action of Wisconsin. Legal Action of Wisconsin is the largest staff-based provider of civil legal services for low income persons in Wisconsin. In April, 2009, Legal Action of Wisconsin will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

In 1968, Milwaukee Legal Services and Freedom Through Equality merged to become Legal Action of Wisconsin. Legal Action staff and volunteer attorneys providing pro bono services have represented and served over 400,000 clients since its inception. The agency has gained public benefits on behalf of clients, helped clients gain custody of their children, and assisted clients in relief from evictions. Further, Legal Action has always sought to go beyond individual representation for low income people by seeking systemic change for problems in order to provide relief to as many clients possible. Legal Action's intervention on behalf of low-income clients has resulted in many achievements including rule changes and modifications, improved procedures from agencies and greater income for clients. They have also positively impacted school systems,

health care systems, prison systems and the agribusiness industry to benefit and provide fundamental justice for clients.

The sole mission of Legal Action of Wisconsin has been to achieve fundamental justice for its clients through creative and effective legal representation. To that end, Legal Action of Wisconsin's lawyers, paralegals and support staff have always upheld the basic democratic principle that all people are entitled to equal justice under law. Legal Action continues to act in cooperation with clients, the private bar, and community organizations to ensure that they remain a community oriented law firm.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I pay tribute to Legal Action of Wisconsin for their 40 years of service. Its dedicated staff, board of directors, and volunteers continue to adhere to the principle that all people are entitled to equal justice under the law in the 4th Congressional District and the entire State of Wisconsin.

THANKING JOE DAVID BERG FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on February 2, 2009, we rise to thank Mr. Joe David Berg for 32 years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Joe has served this great institution as a valuable employee of House Information Resources (HIR), in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Joe began his tenure with the United States House of Representatives in 1977 as a Senior Technical Aid working in the Configuration Planning and Management Section (CPMS). All computing capabilities were provided by a huge mainframe computer with hardware that filled a 10,000 square foot room. Joe provided technical support to the mainframe programmers as a member of the Programmer Assistance Team for ten years.

Joe served the House in many different roles during his 32 years working at HIR. His expertise in the Configuration Planning and Management Section led to Joe becoming manager of that group. Joe served as assistant to the Operations Manager, where he implemented automated system monitoring and alerts. The use of automated monitoring tools was so effective that Joe continues to implement automated monitoring and alerts systems on current technology. Joe served as Security Manager of House systems for more than 2 years. He also served as Special Assistant in Communications, working on the budget, planning and coordination of Communications activities. In Technical Support, Joe provided direct support to Member offices with the National Change of Address service, better known as NCOA. The NCOA service, formerly operated by HIR, improves the accuracy of postal mailing lists. Joe currently serves as a Senior System Engineer on the Windows System Engineering team.

Joe's excellent level of performance over the years gave him the opportunity to oversee and work on many complex projects to include

building the AppManager monitoring system and was an active part of the design and build of the FinMart financial system that will become a part of the Atlas Project. Joe assisted in the initial build of the SQL database clusters that are the backbone of the majority of Windows based applications and websites for the House and is the primary engineer for the Windows based Active Server Page (ASP) and Moveable Type websites for Member and Committee offices. Joe single-handedly created sites for over 202 offices. He is also the primary engineer supporting the Federal Funds project. He has actively worked with our Virtualization effort in our "Green the Capitol" initiative and was instrumental in preliminary testing and subsequent implementation. He is one of the primary engineers for all hardware based efforts and server builds on the Infrastructure Team. He has provided countless consulting services to customers for various application and system creation projects.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Joe for many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. We wish Joe many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1106, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009.

When I was a kid, my parents lost their house. My father became sick and could not keep up with the payments. Millions of Americans have suffered a similar fate during the current economic crisis and millions more are hanging on by a thread. We have a moral obligation to help prevent vulnerable homeowners from experiencing the same pain and suffering my family did.

It is projected that nearly 4,000 homes in my congressional district will go into foreclosure this year with over 8,000 to follow in the next 4 years.

H.R. 1106, the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act would provide lenders the incentive to refinance mortgages for homeowners in danger of foreclosure. It would reduce fees for refinancing and protect lenders from investor lawsuits. In addition, the bill would allow bankruptcy judges to modify the terms of a mortgage for homeowners who can no longer afford their payments. This provision will save an estimated 1,225 homes in my district.

Millions of Americans have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. So it is no wonder that many cannot afford their house payments. Allowing working families to renegotiate the terms of their mortgage is both fair and responsible.

Addressing the foreclosure crisis is key to our economic recovery. The mortgage meltdown got us into this mess, driving down home values and leaving our banks frozen with toxic assets. This legislation will protect homeowners and get our economy back on track. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 1106 and help families save their homes.

IN HONOR OF DR. MITCHELL J.
BIENIA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dr. Mitchell J. Bienia, as he is honored as the recipient of the 2009 Cleveland Society of Poles "Good Joe" Polish Heritage Award. Dr. Bienia's dedicated service to the Cleveland community as well as to the Polish American community continues to be evident throughout his life.

In his 30-year tenure with the Cleveland School District, he worked as teacher, guidance counselor, department head and administrator. For ten years, Dr. Bienia worked as a part-time guidance counselor at Cuyahoga Community College. Among numerous professional accolades, Dr. Bienia was the recipient of the 1970 Martha Holden Jennings Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, the 1990 Phi Delta Kappa Award, and the 1995 Counselor of the Year Award. Dr. Bienia's integrity and dedication to making a difference in his professional life is mirrored in his personal life as well. A lifelong volunteer, he has served as a member and leader with numerous social service organizations, including his current post as a Board Member with Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital.

In addition to his community service, Dr. Bienia has worked tirelessly to promote and preserve his Polish heritage. He has been an active member and leader with several local and national Polish organizations and currently serves as the National Director for the Chicago-based Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. Dr. Bienia and his wife Krystyna are the proud parents of two grown daughters—Krystyna and Michelle, to whom they have passed down the value of family, faith and service to others.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Dr. Mitchell J. Bienia, whose service to family, friends, community and dedication to sharing Poland's cultural gifts all serve to illuminate the diversity that defines the Cleveland community and is the foundation of our country. Dr. Bienia's faith, his love of family and commitment to community is a testament to the true meaning of citizenship and reflects the American dream.

COMMENDING MARTIN AND BETH
ARON OF SPRINGFIELD, NEW
JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Martin and Beth Aron of Springfield, New Jersey. For nearly two decades, Martin and Beth Aron have worked tirelessly to make a difference in their community by helping others.

In fact, there are dozens of New Jersey civic, social welfare, educational, artistic and religious organizations that have benefited from the Arons' hard work, dedication and selfless sacrifices to help those in need.

On March 31, 2009 Congregation Israel in Springfield, New Jersey will honor Martin and Beth at the synagogue's 34th Annual Tribute Dinner for their remarkable and enduring contribution to Congregation Israel and to communities throughout New Jersey.

Over the years, the Arons have been involved in the Zamir Chorale and Zamire Chorale Foundation, both of which promote Jewish choral music as a vehicle to inspire Jewish life, culture and continuity. The Zamir Chorale performed at the White House this past year. The Arons have also been involved in the formation and development of Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy of Livingston, New Jersey, improving the education opportunities of children with unique learning challenges, as well as in the charitable, community outreach and children's programming activities at Congregation Israel.

It gives me great pleasure to share the remarkable efforts of Martin and Beth Aron with my colleagues in the United States Congress and with the American people. I am also honored to join Congregation Israel in recognizing their outstanding service to their community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK L.
SWANNER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great respect and honor that I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Northwest Florida's beloved Frank Swanner.

Frank Swanner was a man who lived his life deeply rooted in his strong faith in God and love for his family and community. Born in Tanner, Alabama on January 28, 1921, he began his working career as a farmer, member of the Limestone County School Board, and an active member of the local Baptist Church and Baptist Association, as well as, working at Chemstrand/Monsanto.

When Chemstrand/Monsanto transferred the Swanner family from Decatur to the Pensacola Plant in 1959, Mr. Swanner and his family moved to Milton, Florida, where he continued his active service in the church and community as Deacon and music leader in Ferris Hill Baptist Church, treasurer of the Santa Rosa Baptist Association, a member of the Santa Rosa County Civil Service Board, the Local Democratic Committee, and the Kiwanis Club.

In addition to his love for God and family, Frank had a tremendous love for our country. During World War II, Frank Swanner joined the United States Army, which brought him to Omaha Beach and the shores of Normandy on June 6, 1944. With honor and sacrifice, he and millions of men and women answered the call of duty. They have become known as the "Greatest Generation," and we are eternally grateful for their service.

To some, Frank Swanner will be remembered as a community leader and fellow worshipper, and to others, an avid softball player and bowler. To some he will be remembered as a friend in the Wendy's Lunch Bunch, and to others, a comrade in the United States Army and World War II Veteran. He will long be remembered by his family and friends as a

loving and compassionate person full of energy and charisma. Frank Swanner touched a number of lives, and all who knew him are forever blessed for the love and inspiration that has left a lasting impression in our hearts.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor one of America's great heroes, Frank Swanner, for his honorable leadership and service to North-west Florida and to this great Nation.

TAXPAYER FUNDED BONUSES AT
AIG

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to add my voice in opposition to plans by American International Group Inc. (AIG) to reward their executives with "job performance" bonuses worth over \$165 million at a time when the American people, including my constituents in Minnesota, are making huge sacrifices to make ends meet.

Yesterday, I joined my colleagues in co-signing a letter to Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner to express my objection to AIG's payment of these ill-timed executive bonuses.

I want to go further and call on the Administration to repeal AIG's latest federal stabilization infusion of \$30 billion until they retrieve the \$165 million in bonuses, provide assurances that bonuses will no longer be disbursed without Congressional oversight and agree to turn over regular disclosure forms to account for how taxpayer funds are being used.

We must demand the highest level of transparency and accountability, especially since American taxpayers have provided over \$170 billion in funding to AIG and control approximately 80 percent of the company.

The purpose of the funds is to stabilize and prevent the devastating collapse of the financial markets, not to reward executives whose performance deserves an "F" grade for their failure to protect investors and consumers.

For traders—whose recklessness and greed greatly contributed to the financial crisis—to think they can profit at the expense of the taxpayers is unconscionable.

This latest irresponsible act by AIG has further compromised the public trust.

I am pleased that President Obama has responded so quickly by pursuing every legal avenue to block these bonuses. Like the President, who yesterday expressed that he is "choked up with anger," I am angry and so are the millions of families bearing the brunt of the economic meltdown.

These monies must be recovered immediately and AIG must provide documentation as to which executives were to receive the bonuses so we can determine if these awards violate recently enacted federal restrictions.

In January, I voted for House passage of H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act, to strengthen accountability and oversight of the Troubled Asset Relief Program and require tough, sensible restrictions on executive pay.

And recently, Congress passed the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, which President Obama signed into law, to curb

multi-million dollar packages and limit bonuses.

We must work closely with the Obama Administration to rigorously enforce these requirements and close potential loopholes so that taxpayers are protected.

HONORING CONSTANCE WALKER-FOWLER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Constance Walker-Fowler is a native of Detroit who moved to Yonkers in 1997 and has been deeply involved in the community and civic organizations since her arrival.

She is Chair of the Yonkers Commission on Human Rights, where she helped to develop the language for the resolution Against Domestic Violence. She is a Life Member of the National Council of Negro Women and for the past four years president of its Hudson Valley Section.

She is also a member of the Hudson River Community Association; Sister-to-Sister Inc.; the Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus; a Trustee of the Schomburg Corporation; and serves on the Advisory Board of Groundworks Hudson Valley. She is also Democratic District Leader and Secretary of the Third Ward election district.

Further, she is Secretary of the International Governing Board of Voices of African Mothers, an organization dedicated to alleviating hunger in Africa.

Even further, she is dedicated to her family, often visiting her son Andre in England and helping her Aunt Mamie and her sister Norice and her family.

In short, Constance Walker-Fowler is dedicated to helping her communities from every aspect while still maintaining close and devoted ties to her family.

I congratulate her on her receiving the Humanitarian Award of the Yonkers YWCA and wish her every success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "FIXING THE FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ACT"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representative HONDA (D-CA), I am reintroducing the "Fixing the Federal Voting Assistance Program Act" which would do two things: (1) make the Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Office a presidential appointee confirmable by the Senate, and (2) create an advisory board to strengthen oversight of the office to ensure better access to the ballot by overseas military and civilian voters.

The Federal Voter Assistance Program (FVAP) is the government's primary office for helping ensure access to the ballot for thousands of overseas voters, both civilian and military, in recent elections. This legislation is

designed to bring greater attention to the voting office in the Department of Defense and enhanced oversight to ensure that it does its job of providing greater access to voting for our soldiers, sailors and airmen, their families, as well as civilians living overseas.

The "Fixing the Federal Voting Assistance Program Act" is a necessary step in ensuring that overseas voters are counted in elections. I believe that Americans serving in the military abroad or civilians residing overseas still do not have adequate help from the government in facilitating their right of access to the ballot. Representative HONDA and I believe we need to start working on improving access to the next election now while the problems are still fresh in our minds so that we are not facing them again in 2010.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAM BURNS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sam Burns, a dear friend and tireless community leader who recently passed away. Sam served as the head of the Sacramento Convention Center and Visitors Bureau and was an admired advocate for drawing tourism into Sacramento. As his family and friends gather to honor and remember his wonderful life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento's most well-respected figures.

Sam was a prominent leader in the Sacramento Region, and his death leaves a tremendous void in the community. When Sam was hired by city leaders in 1972, the Memorial Auditorium was the largest local venue for conventions. Under Sam's leadership, a new Sacramento Community Center opened in 1974, finally putting Sacramento on the map as a convention host. With an \$80 million expansion in 1995, the Community Center was renamed Sacramento Convention Center Complex and is now home to dozens of major events, conventions, and community gatherings each year.

Sam was a strong supporter of all that Sacramento has to offer, from the prestigious Crocker Art Museum to Old Sacramento and the city's riverfront. The high quality of his work and his dedication to Sacramento led to the expansion of his duties in 1993, when he was named to lead the Community and Visitor Services Department. Sam became responsible for drawing large crowds to Sacramento as he promoted the Sacramento Jazz Festival and other city events.

Sam's passion and commitment resonated in his work and will not soon be forgotten by the Sacramento community. His positive impact is seen across our city in the expansion of downtown hotels and the numerous conventions held each year. Sam was a wonderful public servant and ambassador to Sacramento, but he was an even better husband and father. He leaves behind his lovely wife Betsy and three children, Brandi, Michael and Brett.

Madam Speaker, as Sam Burns' family and friends gather to honor his wonderful legacy and many contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to him. Those of us who were privi-

leged enough to call him our friend will deeply miss him. I ask all my colleagues to pause and join me in paying respect to an extraordinary man, Sam Burns.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, YWCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CATHY BREIDENTHAL

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cathy Breidenthal, the longtime executive director of the YWCA of Kansas City, Kansas, who retired from that position on February 28, 2009, after nearly 23 years of dedicated service to that important community institution. Cathy's reinvigoration of the Kansas City YWCA, which included a capital campaign, coupled with a significant expansion in services and programs, will be celebrated at a "Heart of Gold" fundraiser for the institution on March 27th. The Kansas City Star recently carried an article detailing Cathy Breidenthal's service to our local YWCA community; I include it here for review by our colleagues, who I am sure join with me in recognizing the important contributions made by Cathy Breidenthal during her years of service to the YWCA of Kansas City, Kansas. We wish her well upon her well-earned retirement!

[From the Kansas City Star, Dec. 31, 2008]

YWCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RETIRE

(By Joy Gipple)

Cathy Breidenthal, executive director for 22 years of the YWCA of Kansas City, Kan., recently announced her retirement.

"When longtime EDs (executive directors) retire, it's kind of an initial shock," said YWCA board member Theresa Reyes Cummings. "She's really been a pillar."

"Eliminating racism, empowering women" is the branding statement for the YWCA's mission.

"The growth in those two areas is something that I feel really good about," Breidenthal said.

Breidenthal has been credited with a regeneration of the YWCA during her tenure. A major effort was the capital campaign that resulted in sweeping improvements to the facility at 1017 N. Sixth St. and a subsequent expansion in services and programs.

"That process started in 2001, which was our 100th year," Breidenthal said. "In 2002, a lot of construction development was occurring right on our block—the BPU office building and hotel, etc.—so we had some decisions to make as to whether we were going to stay and be a positive part of this (downtown revitalization) development."

The YWCA board decided the agency should stay in the original building. The project included an art gallery, theater and meeting space, as well as a health and fitness facility.

In 2003 the YWCA started its first entrepreneurial initiative: the Corner Café.

"I was looking at the opportunity and some of the amenities that are so important to urban development," Breidenthal said. "We knew there was no upscale coffee shop or café at that time, and we felt that if we were going to phase this in, we needed to do something that really showed progress and our willingness to take that leap of faith."

Underwriting support helped to get it started, and five years later the café continues to provide daily lunch, "happy hour"

cookies and coffees, catering services and culinary classes.

"Like any new business, particularly in an area that hasn't quite reached its full potential for development, it has taken some time," Breidenthal said. "I think the same is true with the art and community meeting space and the health and fitness facility."

She described people's reactions when they see the facility for the first time, or for those who remember the old building and then notice the change.

"They are truly amazed," Breidenthal said. "Every time we have an event and people are there seeing that and they realize they can rent that space, that our food is wonderful—we have an excellent chef—that it's really a quality thing . . . seeing is believing."

When Breidenthal came on board at the YWCA in 1986, she was the only full-time staff member. Today there are 15 full- or part-time employees, and that number was even larger while some government-funded programs used the new facility for a time.

A program called the Teen Pregnancy Network shifted the focus to adolescent health issues. "It really started us in that direction that is still one of the mainstays of our program," Breidenthal said.

The Resource Sharing Project was another way of using the space and providing services. "We had an entity that was an adult day care looking for space," Breidenthal explained. "We had the space but very limited programming. So it was a very win-win for a number of years until we started growing our program and needed the full facility."

Breidenthal also chairs the Downtown Shareholders Group, working on the business improvement district.

"I have a real commitment and I really care about the YWCA and the downtown," Breidenthal said. "I've been part of that urban environment for over 35 years and certainly want it to succeed."

The YWCA board is planning the transition and there will likely be a job posting in January. Breidenthal's last day will be Feb. 28.

She expects the YWCA will continue to be a leader in downtown revitalization. "Being at the crossroads of so many cultures here—certainly that can be one of our strengths and that's another area that fits with the YWCA's mission," Breidenthal said.

Theresa Reyes Cummings echoed those sentiments. "We're going to move forward and we have a lot to offer the community," Cummings said. "It's an exciting time."

HONORING CLAUDETTE J. STOTHART

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Claudette J. Stothart is a retired teacher with vast experience in teaching, from grade school to college and who is also an active member of her community.

For 24 years she taught in New York City as a special education teacher as well as coordinating English as a Second Language courses and Social Studies. She was an adjunct Professor at Rockland Community College for 12 years and at Mercy College for 4 years. She also worked in Greenburgh as a middle school teacher during the summer months.

She worked closely with students, especially to make sure those who were merely acting

out did not become candidates for special education, while advising parents of their rights, in the process inspiring both parents and students.

She was nominated by her students for, and accepted by, Who's Who Among American Teachers.

She is a long time member of the Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus, a member of Westchester Women's Leaders, the International Women's Round Table, and the African American Advisory Board.

She is a firm believer in education as a means to ease socioeconomic ills. She is deservedly receiving the Yonkers YWCA Inspiration Award and I congratulate her for her life's work in inspiring students, teachers and parents.

HILLSBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WORK TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of high school students from the Seventh Congressional District who are volunteering their time to help those in need throughout the world.

Specifically, I would like to commend hundreds of Hillsborough High School students who are volunteering for an annual fundraising event known as Shelter From The Storm 4. The event takes place on Saturday, March 28, 2009 and will raise funds to help students in Haiti and Honduras have access to pure, clean drinking water.

The students have recognized that access to clean water is so basic—yet so precious to disadvantaged communities around the world. The funds Hillsborough High School students raise will help purchase water filters, rain-water collection compartments and provide education on proper sanitation.

Organized by students, Shelter From The Storm 4 will feature numerous educational guest speakers, a three-hour concert and a special festival.

Several dozen student organizations at Hillsborough High School are playing important roles in the event's success, such as the Rotary Club and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. I also commend the leadership of all the teachers involved, who provided guidance to the students throughout the planning stages and implementation of the fundraiser.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to commend all of the Hillsborough High School students who are involved with this special fundraising event. These students are clearly working hard to make a difference and help those in need.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1388, the "Generations of Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act or the 'GIVE Act'." I would like to thank my colleague Congresswoman MCCARTHY for introducing this important legislation, as well as the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Chair, this legislation will expand the already highly successful volunteer programs that empower community activists and improve the education and economic conditions of cities throughout the United States. It supports and increases funding for key community services programs, including AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, VISTA, National Civilian Community Corps, and Senior Corps.

The GIVE Act creates opportunities for green jobs that will contribute to energy conservation and environmental protection. It will create critical educational opportunities for disadvantaged youth and will create incentives for students to improve their communities.

Every year, more than 70,000 Americans participate in the AmeriCorps program alone, which provides relief to cities during natural disasters and reinvigorates communities. Over 50 million American volunteers build homes, organize food-drives, and improve schools through national service programs. The GIVE Act will broaden the opportunities for students and activists to participate in national service via education rewards that keep up with soaring costs of universities and Summer Service programs. After Ike and Katrina, thousands of local students worked to help rebuild communities and provide necessary services to distressed families. The GIVE Act is the critical linchpin in sustaining this civic activism.

Specifically, the GIVE Act would expand the job opportunities for Volunteers in Service to America, or VISTA, to re-integrate youth into society, increase literacy in communities through teaching opportunities in before and after-school programs, and to provide health and social services to low-income communities. VISTA is a critical step toward poverty alleviation, and the GIVE Act will equip it with the resources to fulfill its obligations.

I am pleased to see that my colleague, representative CUELLAR, revised the legislation to increase the number of volunteers from 75,000 to 250,000 members and added provisions for unemployed individuals to be included in the national service workforce, a step that will be a critical step to combating the employment crisis afflicting millions. I am also pleased that Congressman MILLER further specified that the increase in volunteers is not just designed for AmeriCorps, but for all national service programs such as the Peace Corps and Opportunity Corps, and also included language promote community based

efforts to reduce crime and recruit public safety officers.

In addition, the GIVE Act will create 4 new service opportunities including a Clean Energy Corps, an Education Corps, a Healthy Futures Corps, and a Veteran Service Corps. These volunteer opportunities will further improve environmental protection, health-care access, and services for veterans. These new service corps will address critical concerns in low-income communities. I am very happy that Congressman TEAGUE revised the legislation to aid veterans in their pursuit of education and professional opportunities, and help veterans with the claims process, and assist rural, disabled, and unemployed veterans with transportation needs. Moreover, the GIVE Act will recognize colleges and universities that are strongly engaged in service through grants and rewards that will in turn improve educational access in the United States.

I am pleased to see the Retention of my Language from the 110th Congress that gives special consideration to historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal universities, and colleges serving predominantly minority populations. So strong are these universities' support of service, that "veritas et beneficium," or "truth and service" in Latin, is inscribed on their insignias.

The GIVE Act will create a Campus of Service Program that will encourage and assist students in pursuing public service careers. It will also focus on recruiting scientists and engineers to keep America competitive for years to come. The Act will expand the Senior Corps as a way to keep Older Americans including seniors engaged in public service, and will create a Youth Engagement Zone to increase the number of young students in volunteer services.

Moreover, it expands the focus of The National Civilian Community Corps to include disaster relief efforts and infrastructure improvement to allow quicker and more effective responses to disasters like Katrina and like that devastated numerous communities in the United States. Finally, the Give Act will launch a nation-wide Call to Service Campaign that encourages all Americans to engage in national service and to recognize September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

I am honored to cosponsor this legislation that will add service before self to America's future leaders. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE INAUGURAL
NATURALIZATION CEREMONY OF
THE CITIZENSHIP COUNTS ORGANIZATION

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Citizenship Counts organization, whose inaugural naturalization ceremony is being held today to welcome new American citizens. The event's keynote speaker, Gerda Weissmann Klein, is one of very few living survivors of the Holocaust and the founder of Citizenship Counts. She has used her experiences to educate and inspire others in our community and all over the world.

Gerda's story is one of true bravery and heroism. She survived the perils of six concentration camps during the Holocaust and a 350-mile march through Eastern Europe before being liberated by Allied forces. In the many years since, Gerda has dedicated her life to being an advocate for the teaching of tolerance, empowerment, and respect through her extensive work with the Gerda and Kurt Klein Foundation and Citizenship Counts.

The Citizenship Counts organization motivates students through civics education and community service while bolstering pride in their citizenship. Through these programs, Citizenship Counts effectively promotes the ideal of American citizenship as a responsibility, and instills the strong moral values that Gerda has worked so tirelessly to uphold.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Citizenship Counts, an organization whose efforts have truly strengthened our community.

RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION
OF NOWRUZ

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Nowruz, a traditional Persian holiday taking place this week that celebrates the arrival of spring.

Dating back more than 3,000 years, Nowruz is observed by millions of people of Persian descent in the United States, Iran, Iraq, Central Asia, and many other regions of the world. The two-week holiday symbolizes renewal, health, happiness, and prosperity. The holiday's ecumenical values are celebrated by adherents of many religions including Islam, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and the Bahai'i faith. It is considered a special time to share with family and friends and honor cultural traditions.

Here in the United States, Nowruz serves to remind us of the many noteworthy and lasting contributions of Iranian-Americans to the social and economic fabric of American society. I am pleased to join Iranian-Americans in my congressional district and others around the country and around the world in honoring this special occasion.

FEDERAL MUNICIPAL BOND MARKETING
SUPPORT AND
SECURITIZATION ACT OF 2009

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Federal Municipal Bond Marketing Support and Securitization Act of 2009 to address the collateral damage suffered by our state and local governments as a result of the financial crisis. The nation's 55,000 issuers of tax-exempt bonds, including most state and local governments, continue to experience limited access to the capital markets due to the liquidity crisis despite the fact that municipal bonds have always been among the safest investments.

A municipal bond expert recently told me, pointedly, that it is a nightmare out there for those entities attempting to float bonds.

Prior to my election to Congress last November, I spent the last 14 years in local government as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, the last five as Chairman. I oversaw a local government with an annual budget of \$4.5 billion and a AAA rating from Wall Street's three main credit rating agencies. I understand state and local governments, and I believe they are the most effective engines for creating jobs on Main Street, whether by building new schools, fire stations and water treatment plants, or repairing our nation's ailing infrastructure and implementing our environmental agenda.

State and local governments issue debt for their myriad projects through the selling of bonds, and the municipal bond market was one of many victims of the financial meltdown last fall. After the fallout, investors and money fled from those bond markets to U.S. Treasury notes as a safe haven. As a result, the nation's 55,000 issuers of tax-exempt bonds, our state and local governments, are experiencing limited access to the capital markets due to the liquidity crisis despite the fact that "munis" are and always have been among the safest of investments.

Further complicating the issue is the fact that the private insurance market has virtually disappeared, eliminating a viable means of credit enhancement, which allows a small town water authority, for example, to attain the same credit-worthiness as a metropolitan transportation authority.

The drying up of bond markets and lack of insurance has created a double-whammy of steep shortfalls and tough financial choices for state and local governments. In light of this fiscal and capital crisis, legislation is needed to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a program to provide direct credit enhancements or insurance for municipal bonds to help our state and local partners move forward on their shovel-ready projects.

House Financial Services Committee Chairman BARNEY FRANK agreed with me during a colloquy on the subject in mid-January in which he called states and municipalities among the most sympathetic victims of the economic turmoil. Since then, I have been consulting with Chairman FRANK, my colleagues, municipal governments and others who are active in the municipal bond market to craft a solution. What I proposed today may not provide the ultimate solution, but it provides a starting point to begin addressing this critical situation.

My legislation directs the Secretary of the Treasury and Federal Reserve Board to work together to strategically intervene in the municipal bond market to restore liquidity and spark local job creation. It gives the Treasury Secretary the authority, either directly or through the Federal Financing Bank, to provide credit enhancements or guarantees or to outright purchase municipal bonds. It calls on the Federal Reserve to exercise its authority to establish a credit facility for the express purpose of assisting our local and state partners. Of course, the method, source, timing and conditions of any new financing arrangement would be subject to Treasury's approval.

The federal government historically has been reluctant to interfere with the municipal markets, but I believe such concerns could be

addressed by imposing some reasonable limits and conditions on the nature and amount of assistance to minimize risk. Furthermore, municipal bonds historically have a solid performance rating with a low rate of default.

A basic measure for the public to have confidence that the recovery and reinvestment package is working will be the creation of jobs and the completion of physical projects. President Obama has set the goal of creating three to four million jobs. Unlike the financial services relief plan, in which the reward for our investment was largely unseen by the general public, expectations are high for tangible results—paychecks and progress—from this stimulus plan.

It is my firm belief that the primary vehicle for delivering on that promise will be our investments in state and local governments, but we first need to ensure that localities are ready to run with the ball once we make the hand-off. That will require immediate federal action to stabilize their fiscal situation and to revive the municipal bond market.

I believe this bill can help stabilize the municipal bond market, and I look forward to working with Chairman FRANK and other interested members in finding a solution to this serious problem.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION ACTS OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1512, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes, introduced by my distinguished colleague from New York, Representative CHARLES B. RANGEL. This important legislation will extend funding in order to improve transportation for Americans across the nation.

The costs of air travel have increased rapidly in the last few months. Airlines have not only increased the price of air fare, but they have been forced to put charges on extra baggage, cut flights, and lay off hundreds of employees. Air travel is essential, as it is beneficial environmentally, socially, and especially economically. Without the ability to travel by air cheaply and easily, the flow of people, goods, and ideas would substantially decrease.

If we do not extend funding to airline programs, many negative consequences will ensue, including cutting services, such as air traffic control, certification, and inspection, as well as the inability by the airlines to buy new equipment for the aging infrastructure.

It is obvious that something must be done to solve this pressing problem. It is necessary for airlines to look into 2 alternative means in order to increase their effectiveness. However, it is also necessary for the United States to fund several programs.

The Airport and Airway Trust Fund was established in 1970 "to provide for the expansion and improvement of the nation's airport and airway system." Since then, it has provided funds for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Various pieces of legislation have come before the Congress to extend this fund, and yet partisanship has stalled these bills. It is necessary for us to extend this program in order to modernize our air traffic control system. NextGen, a state-of-the-art air traffic control system would allow control towers to pinpoint the exact locations of aircrafts, making the skies less chaotic, and air travel much more efficient.

Additionally, the extension of the Airport Improvement Program is necessary in order to improve safety and efficiency in our air travel. Airports are sites used by millions and millions of Americans every single day. It is vital that airports, travelers, and air flight personnel be secure, and thus it is important to continue to fund this program.

Even though air travel is obviously important, other forms of travel contribute to the nation as well. The Highway Trust Fund was created by the Highway Revenue Act of 1956 to ensure a dependable source of financing for the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. This is the premier fund for government spending on highways, with approximately 45% of all highway spending coming from this fund. The Congressional Budget Office predicts the fund will run a deficit of \$1.7 billion at the end of 2009 and \$8.1 billion by the end of 2010. The Highway Trust Fund balance must be restored.

This bill will extend the taxes that fund The Airport and Airway Trust Fund, extend the expenditure authority of The Airport and Airway Trust Fund, extend the Airport Improvement Program, and restore the Highway Trust Fund balance. This is a vital bill for cities like Houston, Texas, which happens to have one of the top 10 airports in the Nation. I urge my fellow members of Congress to support H.R. 1512 in order to increase efficiency, safety, and functioning of our nation's transportation systems.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF J.W. ANDREWS, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Jackson and, indeed, the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor J.W. Andrews, Jr., and pay tribute to his memory.

Born in Prestwick, Alabama, Mr. Andrews married Ida Virginia Tiggs Andrews in 1937, and the two were married nearly 55 years when she died. He began his career as a machine operator at a veneer mill before becoming an insurance agent for Unity Burial Life Insurance Co. in the early 1950s. By the end of the decade, he had become manager of the company as well as of the accompanying Unity Funeral Home. In the mid-1970s, Mr. Andrews and his wife purchased the funeral home, which became Andrews Funeral Home in 1986. The couple also owned Andrews Flower and Gift Shop.

During the 1960s, Mr. Andrews became active in both politics and the civil rights movement in Clarke County. He traveled to various communities holding voter registration classes, helping familiarize residents with the voter questionnaire used by the Board of Registrars.

He was also a longtime president of the Clarke County Voters League, an organization formed to promote and protect the voting rights of African Americans.

Mr. Andrews was instrumental in the formation of several county commission and school board districts, which provided African Americans representation on those boards. In 1985, Mr. Andrews became one of the first two African Americans to be elected to serve on the Jackson City Council, a seat he held for 14 years. He was also the first African American to serve on the Clarke County Board of Education.

In recognition of his many achievements, the city of Jackson honored Mr. Andrews by rededicating State Highway 177 from the end of Commerce Street to U.S. 43 as the "J.W. Andrews Highway." In 1997, he was honored as the Civitan Club's 47th "Citizen of the Year."

Mr. Andrews was an active member of his church, St. Union Baptist Church in Jackson. He served as a deacon for more than 50 years as well as treasurer, Sunday school superintendent, and choir member. For more than 50 years, he served as host of the Sunday morning radio programs "Spiritual Time" and later "Early Morning Gospel" on WHOD-FM. He also served as an Alabama Democratic Conference chairman for more than 35 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. J.W. Andrews, Jr., will be dearly missed by his family—his children, William Wesley Andrews, Sr., Hattie Virginia Sampson, Carl Gregory Andrews, and Harriette Andrews Douglas; his sister, Jessie Mae Jackson; his 11 grandchildren; his 22 great-grandchildren; and his seven great-great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER CHRISTOPHER TRUCILLO

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Christopher Trucillo, Chief of Department of the Port Authority Police of New York & New Jersey. Chief Trucillo began his law enforcement career in 1978 as a municipal police officer in Harrison, New Jersey. He continued his career of public service by later joining the Port Authority Police Department in 1986. As an officer for the Port Authority, Chief Trucillo worked different operational, administrative, and investigative functions. On September 11, 2001 while assigned as the Commanding Officer of the Internal Affairs Bureau, Chief Trucillo responded to the World Trade Center disaster by mobilizing the members of his staff and accounting for all Port Authority Police personnel who responded. Under his leadership an irreplaceable connection was created between the families of those who were lost in the tragic events of 9/11 and the police department. Chief Trucillo was named the "2004 Boss of the Year" by the New York State Shields for "outstanding leadership and

commitment to law enforcement." He was also honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Police Defense Foundation. On January 6, 2009, he retired after thirty years of public service and dedication as a police officer. His years of valuable service and commitment are greatly appreciated and will certainly be remembered.

I would also like to enter into the RECORD this poem that was given to me about Chief Trucillo and his service as it is a fitting tribute to a dedicated public servant. The poem was written by Albert Caswell, a friend of Chief Trucillo.

TRUE

True . . .
To Be True!
In Life, and In Death . . . and In All You Do
. . .
Jersey's Best . . .
This, and no less . . .
All In That Moment of Truth . . .
When death lies so close . . . right before you
as the most . . .
A Father, A Husband . . . A Top Cop . . .
A Leader of Heroes, at the top . . .
Straight, as an arrow . . .
With a heart of girth . . .
Which, could not be stopped . . .
Kind and caring . . .
He's at the Top . . .
He's a Top Cop . . .
As on this night, for him . . . all of our tears
are sharing . . .
Sharing, knowing . . . such men so glowing
. . . are but few and far between . . .
Just Everything!
Who Are True!
As he touches all . . .
A Man, who in our hearts stand's so very tall
. . .
For All of his Men and Women in Blue . . .
As his heart goes out to them . . . so calls
. . .
All out there on That Thin Blue Line . . .
Quiet Heroes, living and reacting with death
. . . all in micro seconds in time . . .
Giving all, until none lies left . . .
For What is Real, For What Is Really True
. . .
For on this night, who will they save? Who
will they bless?
As a cop lies dying . . . as their precious
lives, they will give no less!
Being True!
As have all of those families who have lived
with death . . .
All for them, over the years . . . so many
sleepless nights, and the tears he's shed
. . .
For all those who have died . . .
Consoling, all those husbands and wives . . .
Looking, into their children's eyes . . .
Being True, to all those lives . . . for them
he cries . . .
Working his way up . . .
A Cop's Cop . . .
Walking out that door . . .
His family, not knowing for sure . . . if
they'd ever see him any more . . .
For his job, Chris must be True!
In our lives, and in our times . . . in all we
do . . .
The Greatest of all things . . . that a heart
can be!
Is True!
Yes Chris . . . that's you . . . True!
True!

STOP AIDS IN PRISON ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1429, "Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2009." I want to thank my colleague Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS of California for introducing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1429, which is designed to address the growing impact that HIV/AIDS is having on minority communities. According to the Black AIDS Institute, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) statistics reveal that African Americans account for half of all new HIV/AIDS cases. Racial and ethnic minorities comprise 69 percent of new cases, according to the 2005 data released by the CDC. African-American women account for the majority of new AIDS cases among women (67% in 2004); whereas white women account for 17% and Latinas 15%. The CDC estimates that 73% percent of all children born to HIV infected mothers in 2004 were African American. HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of death among African Americans ages 25 to 44—deadlier than heart disease, accidents, cancer, and homicide.

The CDC reported that Hispanics accounted for 18% of new diagnoses reported in the 35 areas with long-term, confidential name-based HIV reporting in the United States, and that most Hispanic men were exposed to HIV through sexual contact with other men, followed by injection drug use and heterosexual contact; and that most Hispanic women were exposed to HIV through heterosexual contact, followed by injection drug use.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, African Americans made up 41 percent of all inmates in the prison system at the end of 2004. Since African Americans are disproportionately represented in jails and prisons, the Stop AIDS in Prison Bill is one way to begin addressing this problem.

The Stop AIDS in Prison Act of 2009 directs the Bureau of Prisons to develop a comprehensive policy to provide HIV testing, treatment, and prevention for inmates in federal prisons and upon reentry into the community. The bill would require initial testing and counseling of inmates upon entry into the prison system and then ongoing testing available up to once a year upon the request of the inmate, or sooner if an inmate is exposed to the HIV/AIDS virus or becomes pregnant. Furthermore, the Bureau of Prisons will be required to make HIV/AIDS counseling and treatment available to prisoners, and give testing and treatment referrals to prisoners prior to reentering the community. The bill protects the confidentiality of prisoners, and allows prisoners to refuse routine HIV testing.

Finally, the bill contains a requirement that the Bureau of Prisons report to Congress, no later than one year after enactment, the number of inmates who tested positive for HIV upon intake; the number of inmates who tested positive prior to reentry; the number of inmates who were not tested prior to reentry because they were released without sufficient notice; the number of inmates who opted-out of taking the test; the number of inmates who

were tested following exposure incidents; and the number of inmates who were under treatment for HIV/AIDS.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1429 because we must reverse these costly trends. Currently, the only cure we have for HIV/AIDS is prevention.

Had the bill gone through regularly and been marked up, I was planning on offering an amendment that would permit those infected with HIV to elect, on their own volition, to be housed separately from the general population as long as the prison had the facilities. This way, those infected with HIV could be housed in safety.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is indeed a state of emergency in the African-American and Hispanic community. We must use all resources necessary to defeat this deadly enemy that continues to devastate the minority community. As Americans, we have a strong history, through science and innovation, of detecting, conquering and defeating many illnesses. We must and we will continue to fight HIV/AIDS until the battle is won.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1429, "Stop AIDS in Prisons Act of 2009," and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

A TRIBUTE TO MAYOR HARRY L.
BALDWIN OF SAN GABRIEL

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harry L. Baldwin, retiring as Mayor of the City of San Gabriel. Mayor Baldwin served on the City Council for seventeen years and was selected Mayor by his colleagues on the council for three terms. Mayor Baldwin's legacy in the City of San Gabriel and surrounding communities will endure for generations to come.

During his tenure, Mayor Baldwin worked vigorously and enthusiastically to promote and secure funds for many important projects. One of Mayor Baldwin's greatest accomplishments has been his work to obtain federal funding for the construction of grade separations and safety mitigation for the Alameda Corridor East Project. Over a decade of effort, nearly five hundred million dollars was acquired for this endeavor. Mayor Baldwin's service as President of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (COG) and Vice Chairman of the Alameda Corridor East Construction Authority (ACE) was crucial in securing this funding.

Promoting the interests of the region has been a high priority for Mayor Baldwin. While working on the City Council, he secured funds for park expansions and was essential to the formation of the San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Additionally, public safety has always been a significant concern of Mayor Baldwin's. He was able to identify a pressing need in the city's Fire Department for expanded services and instituted a paramedic training program for the staff.

Mayor Baldwin and his wife Sally have lived in the Mission District for over forty-five years. The product of California public schools, he graduated from both Mark Keppel High School and UCLA. After graduating, Harry worked in the insurance business until just six years ago.

Before election to the City Council in 1992, Mr. Baldwin was president of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce. Since then, he has been actively involved with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). He served as President of the West San Gabriel Valley YMCA and is currently a board member of the Arthritis Foundation of Southern California, San Gabriel Valley Branch, in addition to being involved with many other organizations.

Mayor Baldwin has been a tireless advocate for the City of San Gabriel and the region as a whole. I ask all Members to join me in thanking Harry L. Baldwin for the years of selfless, dedicated service he has provided to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF NOWRUZ,
IRANIAN NEW YEAR

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Nowruz, which marks the traditional Iranian New Year and dates back more than 3,000 years. Nowruz, literally meaning "new day," celebrates the arrival of spring and occurs on the vernal equinox which this year happened on Friday, March 20th.

Through the ages Nowruz has provided the occasion for renewal and rejuvenation, displaying new resolve in settling old issues, and making new beginnings. Nowruz celebrates the core of our common humanity and our relation to Mother Nature. Although colored with vestiges of Iran's Mazdian and Zoroastrian past, Nowruz celebration is neither religious nor national in nature, nor is it an ethnic celebration. Muslim, Jewish, Zoroastrian, Baha'i, and Christian Iranians as well as many other peoples celebrate Nowruz with the same enthusiasm and sense of belonging.

As an original cosponsor of H. Res. 267, which recognizes the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz, I am pleased that we are using this occasion to reflect on the many contributions Iranian Americans have made to our society. I am proud of the ethnically diverse district that I represent and greatly appreciate all that Iranian Americans have added to the rich and varied culture of New York City.

Recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz and in its observance, I want to wish Iranian Americans and all those who observe this holiday a happy and prosperous new year.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MS. BESSIE SWINDLE AND THE DEDICATION OF THE BESSIE SWINDLE COMMUNITY CENTER IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the life and

contributions of a distinguished member of my Houston staff, a constituent and more importantly a friend who was honored on Saturday, March 21, 2009 with the naming of the Bessie Swindle Community Center in Houston, Texas.

A respected leader and activist, Ms. Swindle has committed her life to serving her community. Over the course of more than thirty years, she has endeavored to serve as the voice for those who have, over the years, found themselves in unfortunate and difficult circumstances. I believe her record of unselfish dedication to her city and community will serve as a bright light for those who dare to follow in her footsteps.

Ms. Bessie Swindle was born in Loreauville, Louisiana and transplanted to Houston. Currently, she is the Outreach Coordinator for Congressman AL GREEN of the 9th Congressional District of Texas. Ms. Swindle was appointed by Mayor Bill White to his Phone Tower Commission and is a former member of the Police Officers Civil Service Commission-City of Houston, which is responsible for reviewing HPD criminal activities.

During her distinguished lifetime of service, Ms. Swindle has earned numerous awards and honors. In 2004, she was a recipient of an Honorary Associate in Arts Degree from Houston Community College System.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not thank Mayor Bill White, City Controller Annise Parker, and the distinguished members of the Houston City Council, including the Honorable Wanda Adams who sponsored this special tribute, for their foresight in honoring my friend, Ms. Bessie Swindle.

SMALL BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1541.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953, and has a current business loan portfolio of roughly 220,000 loans worth more than \$50 billion, which makes it the largest single financial backer of U.S. businesses. My district is home to many of these businesses, many of which are struggling to hang tough in this trying economy.

In the 110th Congress, several short-term SBA authorization measures were enacted; the latest was signed into law on May 23, 2008. Under that law, authorization for SBA programs is scheduled to expire on March 20. I am hopeful that President Obama continues the recognition and support for small businesses that he demonstrated yesterday. His leadership, along with that of my colleague NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ on these issues could not come at a more important time.

Small business is frequently viewed as an incubator for employment and economic growth, and is a continuing legislative and oversight concern for Congress due to its constitutional role, through the interstate commerce and general welfare clauses, to promote economic well being and prosperity.

While many analysts believe a very significant percentage of the nation's jobs are cre-

ated by small businesses, others note that a great many small businesses fail every year thereby eliminating jobs.

The 111th Congress is likely to consider many small business issues as it debates reauthorization for the many Small Business Administration (SBA) programs that are scheduled to expire in 2009. Our small business owners need certainty to plan for the future and I will continue to work hard for a more permanent solution to complement the authorizations that many businesses have to endure.

A primary issue in the reauthorization is likely to be the cost to the government of various small business assistance programs. The Bush Administration had proposed that certain loan programs be cut back or eliminated, that borrowers in the SBA's basic loan program be charged higher fees, and that interest rates for disaster loans rise to market levels after five years. I hope that a full review of these policies is underway by the new administration.

Ways to insure that small businesses benefit from economic stimulus programs are likely to be considered. Finding ways for small businesses to provide health insurance to employees could be vital in getting elements of the business community to be actively supporting and working with Congress as we press ahead with legislation on health care. I understand that we in Congress cannot run your businesses for you. I just want to be there to help fashion fair and reasonable legislation that affects small business.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes Small Business Administration programs and authority through July 31 and again it is my hope that we continue to engage the business community as this Congress seeks to move America from recession back to prosperity.

NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer the National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act Amendments of 2009. This legislation makes a technical correction to the National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act of 1978.

The National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act of 1978 created the National Consumer Cooperative Bank, NCB, which is dedicated to strengthening communities nationwide through the delivery of banking and financial services, complemented by a special focus on cooperative expansion and economic development. The same Act established a non-profit corporation to reach further into low income communities and to serve disadvantaged populations. NCB Capital Impact is that non-profit, mission-driven subsidiary of NCB that works to provide housing, education, health care, cultural centers, small businesses and social services in economically distressed communities.

NCB Capital Impact has an impressive track record providing assistance to low- and moderate-income communities. Over time, NCB has invested \$250 million for education facilities; helped finance 137,396 school seats; 33,132 units of multifamily homeownership or

other affordable housing and 8,900 affordable assisted living units for seniors and persons with disabilities; 2.9 million square feet of community health center space serving 350,300 patients annually, and helped created 25,000 jobs for low-income individuals.

Back in my district—the 14th district of New York—NCB Capital Impact has played a significant role in providing financing for much needed housing and community development projects. NCB has facilitated more than 600 loans in my district alone. Most of these loans are for housing, including affordable housing, as well as loans for community facilities and loans to non-profit organizations like the Council of New York Cooperatives and Condominiums. Together, these groups are able to provide assisted living, affordable housing and services to the frail and elderly.

Despite their good work in serving low-income communities and disadvantaged populations, NCB Capital Impact is not eligible for assistance authorized under the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994, which is administered by the CDFI Fund. NCB Capital Impact meets all of the eligibility criteria on its own and without exception; however the Fund has ruled it cannot certify NCB Capital Impact as a CDFI because of the corporate structure of its parent NCB. In short, NCB Capital Impact is shut off from critical sources of financial awards that are needed to maintain their housing and community development efforts.

The interest of NCB Capital Impact in gaining CDFI certification is two-fold. First, it has a track record that is comparable to other organizations that received CDFI status; its mission is dedicated to working with low income populations and communities. Second, increasingly in the community development finance field, CDFI certification is viewed as a 'good housekeeping seal' of approval in working with other federal agencies and other private and public institutions.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this technical amendment to the NCB statute so that the non-profit, mission-driven NCB Capital Impact may continue to provide services to distressed and underserved communities throughout New York and the country at-large.

CONGRATULATING LADY TIGERS OF BENTON HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lady Tigers of Benton Harbor High School on their first ever state basketball championship. These outstanding young women have come a long way this past season and have made their community so very proud. It had been 25 years since the Lady Tigers last appeared in the Class A finals . . . and this time they emerged as champions!

Winning a state championship is something that will last a lifetime. It is a remarkable achievement that few teams in southwest Michigan ever experience, and it is a legacy that will live with the 2008–09 Lady Tigers forever. The Lady Tigers and Coach Harvey

know what brought this state title back to Benton Harbor—hard work. It is doing that one extra sprint, that extra drill, shooting that extra free throw after practice that helped make the Lady Tigers champions. Nobody outworked the Tigers and nobody could beat them in the state tournament. And nobody had a greater following or more community support than our Lady Tigers.

It is an honor to pay tribute to the entire Lady Tiger squad: Olivia Askew, Damonica Buford, Tiara Greer-Allen, Andrea Ellis, Iesha Ellis, Deborah Meeks, Rashonda Pargo, Nyesha Winbush, and All-American Destiny Williams, who led the Lady Tigers with 31 points and added 21 rebounds. We salute all of you.

On behalf of all the residents of southwest Michigan, congratulations again to the Lady Tigers and Coach Harvey and the entire Benton Harbor community—you are an inspiration to us all. It is Tiger Pride at its finest. Go Tigers!

INTRODUCTION OF THE PAY FOR PERFORMANCE ACT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, tonight I am proud to introduce the Pay for Performance Act of 2009.

Madam Speaker, this bill is based on two simple concepts. One, no one has the right to get rich off taxpayer money. And two, no one should get rich off abject failure.

An economy in which a bank executive can line his own pocket by destroying his company with risky bets is an economy that will spiral downwards. And a government that hands out money to such executives is a government that fails to protect the taxpayers.

Our job is to act on behalf of taxpayers to fix our economy, and we do so tonight with this bill.

Madam Speaker, the U.S. Government spent \$170 billion to stabilize AIG, and it now owns 80% of that company. Yet recently, AIG paid more than \$165 million in bonuses to 73 employees with this taxpayer money. That is like paying an arsonist to put out his own fires.

The restrictions in this bill apply only to financial institutions that have taken capital investments from the taxpayer, and they are commonsense restrictions. Pay can't be excessive or unreasonable, and bonuses must be based on performance standards. And if the banks want to avoid these common-sense restrictions, there's a very simple solution—just pay the bailout money back to the government, as so many banks claim they want to do. I know the taxpayers in my district will take it back happily.

As I asked the CEO of AIG when he came to testify before the Financial Services committee, is it more important to protect bank executives who have lost billions of dollars, or to protect us? The answer to that question is now before this body.

I know which side I'm on.

I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this important bill.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR SAM JONES FOR BEING NAMED MOBILIAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mobile Mayor Sam Jones on the occasion of being named Mobilian of the Year for 2008 by the Cottage Hill Civitan Club. The Mobilian of the Year is the city's most prestigious civic honor, and Mayor Jones is most deserving of this award in recognition of his tireless efforts on behalf of the Port City.

A native of Mobile, Mayor Jones graduated from Central High School in Mobile. He attended Florida Junior College and Jacksonville University in Florida before enrolling at the Alabama Interdenominational Seminary, where he was awarded an honorary doctorate.

Mayor Jones started his career in the U.S. Navy where he served for nine years. He served on the USS *Forrestal* where he was a flight deck troubleshooter for A-7 aircraft, an equal opportunity officer, race relations education specialist, and community services coordinator.

From 1980 until 1987, Mayor Jones was executive director of Mobile Community Action, Inc., where he oversaw a 240-person staff and a \$5 million annual budget. He then served as a Mobile County Commissioner for four terms.

In 2005, Sam Jones was elected as the first African American mayor of Mobile. Mobile's Press-Register recently editorialized that "Mobile's first African American mayor has demonstrated to the nation that Mobile is a progressive and inclusive Southern city where all residents have the opportunity for public service."

Mayor Jones is a man known for working 10–12 hour days, including weekends, and is rarely one to take a vacation. As captain of the city of Mobile, Mayor Jones has done yeoman's work helping to recruit several significant economic projects to Mobile, including the biggest economic development project in the history of our state, ThyssenKrupp's \$4 billion state-of-the-art steel plant.

Mayor Jones has an obvious love for Mobile. He has served as the past president of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama; a former member of the National Association of Counties Board of Directors; the National Association of Counties Election Reform Steering Committee; co-chair of Renewal 90 Educational Initiative; steering committee member of the 1988, 1992 and 2000 Education Funding Referendum Initiatives; former member of the Alabama Sentencing Commission; judge, Alabama Court of the Judiciary; former member of the Judicial Inquiry Commission; past member of the Alabama Port Authority; former member of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; former board member of the United Way of Southwest Alabama and 1998 chairman of a \$7 million campaign for the organization; founder of the Mobile County Community Development Partnership; founder, Prichard Federal Credit Union; former chair of Envision Mobile/Baldwin; member, Underage Drinking Task Force; member, 100 Black Men, Mobile

Chapter; and director of Christian Education and Sunday School Superintendent for Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church.

He also currently serves on the boards of several organizations, including the University of South Alabama, the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, the Mobile United Steering Committee, the Mobile Senior Bowl Committee, the MLK Redevelopment Corporation, the Mobile County Governmental Utilities, Mobile County Communication District, Volunteers of America, and Maritime Center of the Gulf of Mexico. He also serves as chair of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and is an emeritus member of the Community Foundation of Southwest Alabama.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Mayor Sam Jones for being named the Mobilian of the Year for 2008 and in so doing recognize him for his many outstanding accomplishments.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a dedicated professional and friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know his many friends and colleagues join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the city of Mobile and the entire state.

RECOGNIZING ZEIDERS ENTERPRISES CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF BUSINESS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Zeiders Enterprises over the 25 years since its founding in Prince William County, Virginia. The more than 700 staff members of Zeiders Enterprises provide services and assistance to more than 1.5 million military and family members at nearly 50 military installations worldwide each year.

Zeiders employees serve in crucial roles as clinical counselors, victim advocates, new parent support specialists, financial counselors, transition specialists, and relocation specialists. Through these activities, Zeiders Enterprises has made a direct, positive difference in the lives of individuals, families, their communities, and the organizations in which they serve. Especially noteworthy is the role that Zeiders plays in supporting the special needs of military service members and their families. Zeiders Enterprises is a founding sponsor of The Quality of Life Foundation, whose mission is to honor and serve our severely injured combat service members and their families by helping them face the life-changing challenges unique to their situations.

Employees at Zeiders contribute outside the workplace through extensive volunteer service.

This volunteer support of the American Red Cross, Peace Corps, local schools, youth development programs, mentoring programs, victim advocate programs, youth sports programs, community orchestras, volunteer fire and rescue departments, and military service in National Guard and Reserve occurs in Prince William County, Virginia, and across the nation where Zeiders employees live and work. The consistent contributions of Zeiders employees to the communities in which they serve are truly impressive.

A culture of public services emanates from the top of the Zeiders Enterprises organization. Michael Zeiders, president and CEO, serves the citizens of Prince William County and Virginia as an active member of both the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board and the SkillSource Group Board. Under his leadership, Zeiders Enterprises is an active partner in the community. Additionally, Mr. Zeiders has supported families of Wounded Warriors nationwide through the Quality of Life Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today to congratulate Zeiders Enterprises on its 25th anniversary and to pay tribute to the significant contributions its employees have made in improving the lives of our brave men and women who serve this great country.

AUTHORIZING PILOT PROGRAM FOR PATENT CASES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 629, the "Patent Judges Pilot Program in Certain District Courts." I urge my colleagues to support this bill. This bill will provide more expertise in skill in a difficult area of law: patent law. Americans hold the patents and patent law as important, integral to our very lives. Patents reward ingenuity and creativity.

As the Blackberry litigation demonstrated, deficiencies in the current system have the ability to paralyze America. Indeed, the New York Times noted that "[something] has gone very wrong with the United States patent system." The Financial Times opined that "[i]t is time to restore the balance of power in U.S. patent law." Indeed, there has been a cry for change in the patent system and increased expertise for many years now.

The Constitution mandates that we "promote the progress of science and the useful arts . . . by securing for limited times to . . . inventors the exclusive right to their . . . discoveries." In order to fulfill the Constitution's mandate, we, as Members of Congress, must

examine the system periodically to determine whether there may be flaws in the system that may hamper innovation, including the problems described as decreased patent quality, prevalence of subjective elements in patent practice, patent abuse, and lack of qualified persons to study patent law.

H.R. 628 attempts to correct some of these problems.

H.R. 628 creates a pilot program to increase the expertise of U.S. District Court judges who wish to hear cases that involve issues related to patents or plant variety protection. The bill provides for the designation of not less than 6 United States district courts in at least 3 different circuits to take part in the pilot program. In the designated courts, judges who elect to hear patent or plant variety protection cases will be designated to do so by the chief judge. Cases will be assigned randomly, but undesignated judges may decline to accept patent and plant variety protection cases. The bill authorizes the expenditure of not less than \$5 million per year for up to 10 years to pay for the educational and professional development of designated judges, and for compensation for law clerks with technical expertise related to patent and plant variety protection cases to be appointed by the designated courts.

The high cost of patent litigation is widely publicized. It is not unusual for a patent suit to cost each party upwards of \$10 million. Appeals from United States district courts to the Federal Circuit are frequent, in part because of the perception within the patent community that most district court judges are not sufficiently prepared to adjudicate complex, technical patent cases. In 2008, 45 percent of the patent cases that were appealed to the Federal Circuit were reversed in whole or in part or vacated and remanded. This bill seeks to promote consistency among United States district courts by increasing the expertise of district court judges, thus providing for more certainty in intellectual property protection.

Taken together, these improvements would bring the American patent system up to speed for the twenty-first century. Instead of remaining a hindrance to innovation and economic growth, the patent system should work for inventors, ensuring America's patent system remains the best in the world and prevents risks to innovation.

I am encouraged by this bill, and I am hopeful that minorities and women take advantage of this pilot program. The patent judges pilot program and pilot program for law clerks provides for the educational and professional development of the designated district judges in matters relating to patent and plant variety protection, and for compensating law clerks with expertise in technical matters arising in patent and plant variety protection cases. This is yet another step that America is taking to ensure that its patent system is the best in the world. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 25

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Iraq.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Southern border violence, focusing on homeland security threats, vulnerabilities, and responsibilities.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SH-216

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine State-of-the-Art information technology (IT) solutions for Veterans' Affairs benefits delivery.

SR-418

9:45 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on NextGen and the benefits of modernization.

SR-253

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2010 for National Guard and Reserve.

SD-192

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine transportation investment.

SD-406

10:30 a.m.

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2010 for the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

Aging

To hold hearings to examine an update from the Alzheimer's Study Group.

SD-106

2 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Energy Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine how to improve energy market transparency and regulation.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Budget

Business meeting to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

SD-608

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine foreign policy and the global economic crisis.

SD-419

Finance

Health Care Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the role of long-term care in health reform.

SD-215

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine reserve component programs of the Department of Defense.

SR-232A

MARCH 26

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ashton B. Carter, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, James N. Miller, Jr., of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, and Alexander Vershbow, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for International Security Affairs, all of the Department of Defense.

SH-215

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To continue hearings to examine enhancing investor protection and the regulation of securities markets.

SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine legislation to strengthen American manufacturing through improved industrial energy efficiency.

SD-366

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Karl Winfrid Eikenberry, of Florida, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Department of State.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Budget

Business meeting to continue a markup of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

SD-608

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jonathan Z. Cannon, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Thomas L. Strickland, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Department of the Interior.

SD-406

Finance

To hold hearings to examine middle income tax relief.

SD-215

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jane Holl Lute, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD-342

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 515, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform, and the nominations of Tony West, of California, Lanny A. Breuer, of the District of Columbia, and Christine Anne Varney, of the District of Columbia, each to be an Assistant Attorney General, all of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine health insurance industry practices.

SR-253

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Airland Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine current and future roles, missions, and capabilities of United States military land power.

SR-222

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Rose Eilene Gottenmoeller, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State for Verification and Compliance.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of John Berry, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

SD-342

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

MARCH 31

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine Federal school meal programs, focusing on nutrition for kids in schools.

SR-328A

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To continue hearings to examine health insurance industry practices.

SR-253

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, focusing on the progress it has made since the financial crisis of the 1990s, the financial management challenges in the years ahead, and the steps that are being taken to address those challenges.

SD-342

APRIL 1

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of W. Scott Gould, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SR-418